



U.S. Department of Justice

**CHANNING D. PHILLIPS**  
*Acting United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Public Affairs**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **District Man Sentenced to 39 Years Incarceration for 2007 Father's Day Weekend Slaying of Father of Three**

**Washington, D.C.** - Joseph Thomas, a 25-year-old resident of the District of Columbia, was sentenced today by Judge Herbert Dixon in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, to a total of 39 years incarceration for crimes related to the June 15, 2007 slaying of a father of three in the 200 block of 37<sup>th</sup> Place, S.E., Washington, D.C., Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today. In September 2009, a Superior Court jury found Thomas guilty of Second Degree Murder While Armed, two counts of Obstruction of Justice, two counts of Attempted Subornation of Perjury, and related weapons charges. In handing down the sentence, Judge Dixon described the murder of the decedent in this case as "tragic."

According to the evidence elicited during the two-week trial, on June 15, 2007, the defendant twice approached Mr. Brown while he stood in the 200 block of 37<sup>th</sup> Place, S.E. The first time, the defendant, who was armed with a pistol that he held at his side, threatened Mr. Brown and then left. A few minutes later, the defendant returned and came within eight to ten feet of Mr. Brown and then, without provocation, opened fire. The decedent unsuccessfully tried to flee, but was fatally struck in the back with a single bullet.

In September 2007, the Metropolitan Police Department executed a search warrant at the defendant's home and found the pistol used in the murder of Mr. Brown. Subsequently, the defendant was arrested and charged with murder. Following his arrest, the defendant concocted an elaborate plan to blame a deceased third-party for the murder of Brown. The defendant attempted to recruit others to further this lie. At trial, the government produced a series of recorded calls, letters, and notes in which the defendant scripted his manufactured defense.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Violent Crimes Branch Detectives Robert Arrington and Dwyane Partman, and Sixth District Officer Andrew Dawidowicz. He also commended the work of Legal Assistant Kelly Blakeney and Litigation Technology Specialist Leif Hickling. Finally, he praised the outstanding work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynn Haaland, who indicted the murder charges and helped prepare the case for trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Ambrosino, who presented arguments during the motions hearing, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sharad Khandelwal, who indicted the Obstruction of Justice charges and prosecuted the case at trial.

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